GAYSPEAK

NEWSLETTER OF THE PIKES PEAK GAY COMMUNITY CENTER

PO BOX 574 COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80901 PHONE (303) 471-4429

Volume 6 Number 2 February 1984

WARMING OUR NEW HOME

Sunday afternoon, January 22, about seventy five people crammed the brand new PPGCC storefront at 729½ W. Colorado, our Lambda Resource Center, drank red wine and ate orange cheese and brown bacon-wrapped water chestnuts, and congratulated each other on having a place to call home. Television channels 5-30 (KOAA) and 13 (KRDO) came and went before the crowd arrived, to record the event for a wider audience.

The place looked good, thanks to several work parties, with white walls and ceiling, burnt-orange carpet, decorative and also informative posters about various Center activities, and one wall with bookshelves brightened by the Center's small but growing library of books on gayness and by gays and lesbians. (These books, which lived for a long while in boxes in the spare room of Bob A's house, will circulate to members only.) The occasion was festive, with a lot of people of both sexes, ranging in age from about seventeen to sixty.

Two hundred invitations went to all Center members, friends of the Center, to Mayor Robert Isaacs, Chief of Police John Tagert, U.S. Representative Ken Kramer, the presidents of local colleges, and both newspapers. We received regrets from Tagert, Kramer, Carol Lease of the Denver gay community center, and numerous former helpline staff members.

From here on, the Center will be open every Saturday from one to five p.m., will house the Monday evening group "Can We Talk" and others which want to meet there, and the helpline phone service.

Considering the competition from the Superbowl Sunday afternoon (we blew it when we picked the date), our open house was a great success, and we are well launched on our new life with a place in town. Come by to visit. Check out some books if you are a member--it's worth the price of membership alone. Stop and chat, whether you're a member or not.

LIBRARY BOOKS NEEDED

YOUR CENTER LIBRARY IS IN NEED OF NON-FICTION GAY BOOKS. IF YOU CAN HELP OUT BY DONATING SOME TITLE(they are tax-deductible), PLEASE DROP THEM OFF AT THE LAMBDA RESOURCE CENTER, 729½ W. COLORADO AVE. ON SATURDAYS BETWEEN 1pm & 5pm. FICTION BOOKS ARE ALSO WELCOMED, BUT WE NEED NON-FICTION MORE IN ORDER TO BUILD UP OUR RESEARCH FACILITIES.

"LAST SUMMER AT BLUEFISH COVE," sponsored by Womyns Theater Collective, Cossitt Hall, Colorado College, February 17 & 18 at 8:15; 19 at 2:15; 24 & 25 at 8:15. Tickets $4 at the door, $2 to students.

HELPLINE(471-4GAY)

No more answering service!

We are now answering the helpline ourselves in our new home, the Lambda Resource Center. Service is increased from 12 hours per day to the full 24.

Our volunteers work from 6 to 9 p.m. Mondays through Fridays, and from 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. The rest of the time our new answering machine, which MCC donated to us, gives information on the Center, support groups, and other matters which callers most frequently request. It then invites the caller to leave his or her name and number, or to call back when the line is answered live.

Since we hooked up the new line January 16, 165 calls have been answered either by the machine or by the staff.

During open house January 22, four people volunteered for training as helpline counsellors. We extend a big WELCOME to them, for they saw the need in their community and answered it. Anyone else who wants to join this team of concerned and helpful gays and lesbians, just call us at 4714GAY (the same number as before) and check about the next training session.

Also, if you are interested in adding your group, business, or activity to our referral book, we'll be delighted to hear from you. The more we boost each other, the more united the gay/lesbian community is.

"COUNT ME IN" HOSTS WIDE RANGE OF SPEAKERS, ACTIVITIES

Count Me In, meeting every Wednesday evening from 7:30 to 9, is one of the two largest support groups sponsored by PPGCC. Attendance averages 15 to 20 in this rap and support group for men and women 30 and over. Kathy emphasizes that it is a socializing and discussion group, not a therapy group.

Almost every week Count Me In has a speaker on a topic of interest to the group, ranging from gay health (John Potterat of the El Paso County Health Department has been a popular guest), to grief, to personal rebuilding after the breakup of a relationship, investments, and any other topic the group decides on. Some meetings have no guest speakers, and are devoted to group discussions on topics decided in advance. The last meeting before Christmas was a wassail with the agenda of good holiday cheer.

Spin-off activities have grown during the last few months. Every month a potluck with dishes from the cuisine of a different country is held in the home of one member or another. Skiing, both cross-country and downhill, is a growing interest for the group, which has also organized fishing and camping trips. Last summer, Count Me In organized a softball team which played a game against MCC. "Our team was a lot better than theirs," says Kathy, "but MCC won. We had a joint picnic afterward." Some members are interested in starting a bridge group.

Young women sometimes contact Kathy asking to join Count Me In. If enough of them show interest, the young women's support group will start up again. For the moment, they are welcome to come to Count Me In meetings.

Kathy was happy to note that the informal tone of Count Me In pulled new members in immediately, and that cliques have not developed within it, despite its solid core of stable membership.

GAY/LESBIAN
AND
CATHOLIC?
IT'S
POSSIBLE!

JOIN A SUPPORT GROUP OF CATHOLICS
WHO REJOICE IN THEIR GOD AND GAYNESS

"DIGNITY"
471-3893

PIKE'S PEAK MCC

GOD LOVES GAYS ALSO!
John 3:16

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REVEREND ROGER E. WEBB, PASTOR

(303) 634-3771

GAY COMMUNITY CENTER REORGANIZED AS A "UNITED AGENCY"

PPGCC may not be unique among community organizations in the gay and lesbian movement, but we haven't heard of one elsewhere in the United States quite like it. Here, in brief, is the way we were organized before last fall, the way we are organized now, the reason for the change, and what we intend to accomplish by the change:

Until late 1983, the Center was one among several local gay organizations. It had a speaker's bureau, the helpline, several support groups, and GAYSPEAK, just as it does now, but it neither represented all gays and lesbians in Colorado Springs nor was it set up so that it could represent them. People familiar with gay life in other cities and other times know more than they want to know about competition. "Who are they to think they speak for us?" was the kind of complaint that filled the air more than was good for us. Which publication spoke for gays and which national organizations? Differences of politics, of friendship, lovers' quarrels, split the boards of numerous organizations in numerous cities. After the Stonewall Riot in 1969, button-down Establishment types fought with the drag queens as to which had the right to speak for all of us. Are we "just like everybody else" except for what we do in bed, or is homosexuality a radically different life style? Are we conservative or revolutionary?

Here in Colorado Springs, the Court sometimes was close to the Center, sometimes at odds with it. One of the bars, according to some critics, "owned" the Center, and other bars decided they had been left out. The Metropolitan Community Church and other religious groups made their appeals and gave their service without coordination. That was how gay organizations in The Springs functioned in the past. We are too few to afford to be split into atoms!

Now the Center is set up quite differently, even though it looks much the same as before. The instrument for change was simply to amend our bylaws so as to add a seat on the board for each gay organization that wanted to belong. To date, the invitation has been accepted by four sister organizations: The Metropolitan Community Church, the Imperial Court of Southern Colorado, Dignity, and the Professional Social Network. GAYSPEAK has featured stories on several of them, and opens its columns to all of them, especially now with our expanded size. (See MCC and Court stories in this issue.) Board meetings are changing too, so that we hear firsthand the views on gay and lesbian issues of numerous interest groups in town. We offer a standing invitation to provide a seat on the Center's board for any other organized gay or lesbian group in town.

What is our aim? Is this like a corporate takeover? Do we want to make subsidiaries of everybody else? Are we Wall Street megalomaniacs? Not really. We are trying to transform the Center into a meeting ground for everybody. We want its board meetings to become the expected place to discuss differences, to resolve conflicts in scheduling of events (not including the Superbowl), the place where gays and lesbians can discover the issues they can agree on, and maybe most important of all to become the place where all of us hammer out policy and campaigns. The January 31 meeting, the first at which all four other organizations could attend, already showed us doing just that. We shall not always remain non-political, and we shall find little by little that we need to possess a mechanism for producing concensus so as to gain clout in the political world.

Those of you who read GAYSPEAK but whose primary loyalty is to one of the other organizations--Don't look at the growth of PPGCC as an attempt by a few people to become big at the expense of the rest. It is an attempt to increase support for every organization and for each of us as individuals, to make progress on issues we share in common. Join the Center and also continue to support your own group. Contribute your group's news and views to GAYSPEAK. Dispute and disagree. Become part of the dialogue on the topics that matter to all of us.

"Bent," by Martin Sherman, reviewed here in December, runs through February at the Gaslight Theater in Denver. Phone 427-5125 or 455-6044 for reservations.

Omission: The cartoon strip ending "GET INVOLVED!" published last month came from OUT IN MONTANA. Thanks, brothers and sisters.

471-0834

HRS: MON.-SAT. 9:00 A.M.-10:30 P.M.
SUN 12:00-8:00 P.M.

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GOLD IN THE TAILINGS

The gay fiction available in the average gay bookstore, with the conspicuous exception of a very few places like Chinook's in Colorado Springs and Category Six in Denver, is the homosexual equivalent of the pulp novels of the turn of the century. Once in a long while, however, a manuscript with redeeming aesthet ic value makes its way through the editorial boards of pulp publishers and into the porno book shops. We shall hold up and wave these good books whenever we come across them.

This month it's THE HITCH-HIKER AND OTHERS, a collection of short stories by Avery Heath, published in 1982 by Surey Books in its "Stud Series" (try P.O. Box 362, Canal St. Stn., New York City 10013, or P.O. Box 910, Santee CA 92071), priced at $3.95. We found it at half price in the Monarch Magazine Exchange on East Platte.

The cover looks like trash, like a thousand others, and the binding guarantees that the whole thing will fall apart after a few readings, like a thousand others.

Heath hits the gay male reader in his body fantasies, where we have the least defense. What are those fantasies? Superb bodies, rippling muscles, azure blue or liquid brown eyes that pierce you or melt you, a phallus of unreal proportions (8" absolute minimum), a shock of silky blond/black/auburn hair, skin like satin sheating muscles of steel, sweat glistening like oil when the fantasy is sexually aroused.

So here Heath goes in the cover story. In chapter one, the first-person narrator picks up a studly hitch-hiker, with the qualities listed above, and they get it on in the first motel they come to. Skyrockets, pinwheels, total fulfillment (lasting until they both recover from having sex, and split). Chapter two starts out, "But that isn't what happened at all. Here's what really happened:" and the reader is off on an unexpected exploratory trip. By chapter three we are chuckling, as it opens "But I'm kidding myself. Nothing like that happened at all." And chapter four, only two paragraphs long, says "I'm still kidding myself--and you too," and declares simply that the driver lost the hitch-hiker to a car that got there quicker. The character is disappointed, but the reader sees a bronx cheer for stereotypical gay pulp stories.

The other ten stories are different from "The Hitch-Hiker," but none of them fits the usual gay-pulp mold any better. In "The Idyll," the narrator picks up a stray in a Minneapolis bus station at 25 below zero, takes him home to warm him up. The stray, although pleasant physically, is no stud. The two share the narrator's house for about six months, the stray hardly ever saying anything, but working around the house as if to pay for his keep, with love-making getting better by the night. Then the stray ups and moves on, saying he has to go home. Still almost no words. But six months later yet, he sends the narrator his wedding invitation, under which is written, "I love you."

"The Photographer" we'll pass over, because it slips into the groove of high school romance between the star athlete and the shy freshman and adds nothing to the genre.

The other seven stories are variations on the theme of pickups in Los Angeles. Some of the bodies are superb and others are not, but the quality of the body is nowhere the crux or the punch of the story. In one a black hustler banks his earnings toward a new violin which he plays in the symphony. In two the trade meat is AWOL from one or another branch of the armed services (and in a third it is a juvenile escaped from Juvenile Hall). One hustler is a cynical but tender jailbird. There is a bodybuilding college student who is helped to pass his courses by a more ordinary stud who drains his excess pressure at the bottom of his torso, and injects him with tutoring at the top. They decide they love each other at the end of the story. (The ordinary narrator, the exotic pick-up, is a recurrent theme.) Among the other numbers are a psycho who never accepts his homosexuality and other drifters, at least two of whom are bisexual, who come for blow jobs and stay for affection. The narrator remains more or less the same person throughout these stories, a wistful and faithful wimp--no, make that Everyman--who keeps the home fire warm for his more colorful lovers.

What is most appealing about THE HITCH-HIKER is that author Avery Heath focusses our attention away from the body as fantasy and onto the loneliness of the narrator and the various ways he personifies his dreams in the waifs, strays, and hustlers he picks up. This is a life of fantasy, just as much as the more usual gay garbage. But it is creative fantasy of the spirit which--like all good fiction--leads us to ask questions about ourselves, while giving us a vicarious roll in the kingsize bed.

Reviewed by Paul

IMPERIAL COURT NEWS

The Imperial Court of Southern Colorado has elected Bob Steinborn, Grand Czar VIII, to repreent it on the board of the Pikes Peak Gay Community Center. Bob says he is "pleased and excited at the prospect of further uniting and serving the gay community of the Pikes Peak Region." (With the addition of Bob and of representatives of other gay and lesbian organizations, board meetings begin to feel more like real representations of the whole gay community. --ed.)

SKI TRIP

Sunday, February 19, the Imperial Court will be sponsoring a ski trip to Breckenridge. For the nominal sum of $30, you get round trip transportation, a half-day lift ticket, equipment rental, beginner or intermediate lessons, hot wine and sandwiches. If you like, you may bring your own equipment and save.

For reservations and further information, call 471-7468 or 594-0279.

COURT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

February

Friday, 10th: Court show, "PUTT'N ON THE RITZ" at the Hide & Seek 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Saturday, 11th: Sock Hop at the Exit, 10 p.m. to midnight.

Sunday, 12th: Broken Hearts Awards--Exit (special show) 8 p.m. Hide & Seek (show and awards) 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Sunday, 19th: ski trip to Breckenridge (see story above)

Friday, 24th: Court show, "COMEDY TONIGHT" at the Hide & Seek 10:30 p.m. and 12:30 a.m.

Sunday, 26th: Tupperware party at the Exit, 2:30 p.m.

March

Thursday, 8th: First annual benefit for ICSC. Pre-cocktail hour, Exit, 5 p.m. dinner and melodrama at Iron Springs Chateau. Hope to see you there.

For all of these events, check for information on posters at the Exit or the Hide & Seek, or call Emperor VIII Tim, 634-9276 or Empress Lyda Rose, 636-3192.

Special thanks for the community's support of the third annual MR. RIGHT CONTEST.

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Sexually Transmitted Disease Clinic--501 No. Foote, just north of Memorial Hospital. Nominal fee, strictly confidential. Minors examined and treated WITHOUT parental consent. Call 636-0147.

ANTI-DISCRIMINATION IN DENVER GOVERNMENT

Denver's new mayor Federico Peña last December issued a proclamation declaring it the policy of his administration that there shall be no discrimination on any grounds, including sexual preference.

The proclamation is not binding, said aide Carol Hunter in a telephone interview with GAYSPEAK. A binding rule is not yet feasible, since many city agencies are more responsible to state or federal governments than to the mayor.

What the proclamation does accomplish, said Hunter, is to put Peña's own appointees on notice that if they want to keep their jobs, discrimination is a thing of the past. She said the proclamation is a start and a first step. Peña hopes to put teeth into his policy as soon as he gets the power.

Live!

PAMELA STANLEY

February 18th

"Coming Out of Hiding" at the Hide & Seek Complex in Colorado Springs.

National Recording Star Pamela Stanley will be performing on Saturday, February 18th at the Complex at 12 am. Pamela had the sleeper hit of the summer, "I Don't Want to Talk About It." At the Hide & Seek she will be debuting her newest song, "Coming Out of Hiding." Cover will be $3 in advance and $4 at the door.

THE HIDE & SEEK COMPLEX

The Hide & Seek Complex is located in Colorado Springs at 512 West Colorado Avenue, phone 634-9303.

Kohl reinstates fired general

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Wednesday reinstated a top general fired for alleged homosexual contacts, but refused to accept Defense Minister Manfred Woerner's offer to resign for mishandling the affair.

At Kohl's order Gen. Guenter Kiessling, 58, who was dismissed Dec. 31, was reinstated as a four-star general in the West German army, a Defense Ministry spokesman said.

However, the general will not return to the job of No. 2 commander at NATO headquarters in Belgium — a position he occupied when he was fired.

Kohl told a news conference that "mistakes" were made by the defense ministry in handling the Kiessling issue, but that he rejected an offer by Woerner to resign.

The chancellor refused to elaborate on what he felt Woerner's mistakes were. He noted that a special parliamentary commission is investigating the affair and can be expected to make its findings public.

Kohl read to reporters a letter from Woerner to Kiessling, in which Woerner admitted there were "unconfirmed statements" in a military counter-intelligence report that had labeled Kiessling a security risk.

That report, which had cited allegations that Kiessling frequented two homosexual bars in Cologne, had prompted Woerner to dismiss Kiessling.

In the letter read by Kohl, Woerner told Kiessling: "The cause for assuming that there is a security risk involved in your activity no longer exists."

However, Woerner did not specifically mention the allegations of homosexuality — which Kiessling has repeatedly denied — and Kohl refused to say that they had been withdrawn.

"I (myself) have not raised the charge (of homosexuality), and it is not mine to withdraw it," the chancellor said. "I came to the conviction that the honor of the general must be reinstated, and that I have done."

Woerner's letter to Kiessling stressed that he had dismissed him purely out of security considerations. "I have at no time questioned your honor," it said.

Now that he is reinstated, Kiessling will retire on March 31.

And what if Kiessling WERE gay? Would that make him a bad soldier? Was Alexander?

SUPPORT GROUPS

PPGCC SONSPORS THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT GROUPS. CALL THE HELPLINE (4714GAY) FOR MORE INFORMATION OR REFERRAL.

"COUNT ME IN" MEETS ON WEDNESDAYS FROM 7:30 to 9 p.m. THE GROUP CONSISTS OF WOMEN AND MEN 30 YEARS OLD AND OVER.

"COUPLES" MEETS MONTHLY, USUALLY ON A SATURDAY FOR A SOCIAL GATHERING SUCH AS A POTLUCK.

YOUNG MEN'S SUPPORT GROUP MEETS ON FRIDAYS FROM 8 p.m. TO ? THE GROUP CONSISTS OF MEN 16 TO 21.

"CAN WE TALK" MEETS ON MONDAYS FROM 7:30 to 9 p.m. GAY RAP GROUP, ANY AGE, EITHER SEX.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF GAYS MEETS ON REQUEST.

SPEAKERS BUREAU AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. ASK FOR CHUCK OR PAUL.

Two groups are inactive at the moment, will re-activate when demand warrants. These are the men's support group (21 and older) and the young women's support group (16 to 30).

SUPPORT THE GAY COMMUNITY IN COLORADO SPRINGS... JOIN THE PIKES PEAK GAY COMMUNITY CENTER. THIS IS YOUR ORGANIZATION... JUST FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW, PUT IT IN AN ENVELOPE WITH YOUR CHECK OR MONEY ORDER, AND SEND IT TO: PPGCC, P.O. BOX 574, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80901.

YES, I WISH TO JOIN THE COMMUNITY CENTER. ___NEW ___RENEWAL

_____ $5.00 STUDENT (16 to 21 yrs. old) _____$7.50 INDIVIDUAL (21 & up)

_____ $10.00 HOUSEHOLD _____ $60.00 SUSTAINING

_____ $35.00 INSTITUTIONAL _____ $120.00 BUSINESS

ALL MEMBERSHIPS ARE GOOD FOR ONE YEAR. ANY TYPE OF MEMBER SHIP IN THE CENTER ENTITLES YOU TO VOTING PRIVILEGES OF THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP, AND THAT THE MEMBERSHIP LIST IS CONFIDENTIAL.

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GOD LOVES GAYS ALSO!
John 3:16

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

MCC (Metropolitan Community Church) is a Christian church that affirms the gay and lesbian lifestyle. The following article is written by the pastor, the Rev. Roger Webb. If you would be interested in more information about the church, please feel free to call him at 634-3771. The worship service is held at 730 N. Tejon (the Unitarian Church) 7pm.

This month is one of intensity for our community of faith. The biggest news item is that we have changed our worship time to 7:00pm beginning with the Sunday worship service of February 5th. Please make note of this time change. Also this month our members have the annual congregation meeting to decide our business affairs for the year, which will be held Friday February 17th at 6pm. The senior pastor of MCC Long Beach, California will be guest preaching on Sunday, February 19th. Rev. Pruitt is gifted in the Healing ministry.

Do you know someone who is hearing impaired? Let them know we have someone who can sign for them if they would like to attend any of our worship services. We also try to reach out to our community by not being sexist. God is referred to as Heavenly Father but all references to people are no longer male-identified such as man, mankind and brethern. We change our music and scripture to such terms as people, folk, humanity and brother and sisters.

As pastor I find on a regular basis people have some misconceptions as to how we worship. Some are so cynical as to believe we hold"sexual orgies" and yet others think we are gays who haven't accepted ourselves and trying to use religion to change or make amends. If you came to our worship services you would find around 40 women and men (about 3 children) seeking Jesus Christ in a service somewhat structured like a Methodist service, with an occasional sense of informality like a of family gathering and a teaching based on Biblical precepts. Hopefully you would find us neither ritualistic or engaged in cheap emotionalism.

Take some time out one Sunday and spend a little while with us. If you use to attend there have been some changes that maybe you'd like to check out for yourself. We are actively gay, seeking greater joy in life through the abundance of Jesus Christ. Join us at 7:00pm this Sunday...

FIRST CLASS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

TO:

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